and Kashmir and to seek the early restoration of democracy in Pakistan should contribute to promoting peace and stability in the region.

Declaring Pakistan a terrorist State

†1570. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is necessary that United States of America should declare Pakistan a terrorist State so that India declares Pakistan a terrorist state;

(b) if not, the reasons for Pakistan not being declared a terrorist State by India, so far;

(c) whether Government are taking all measures to declare Pakistan a terrorist State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) In its interaction with the United States at political and official levels, Government have on numerous occasions made known their views on Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism against India as a matter of state policy. US Spokesmen have stated that there is evidence of general support and of ties between agencies of the Pakistan Government and terrorist groups operating in Kashmir.

Government have also been appropriately and effectively bringing to the attention of the international community the facts regarding Pakistan's continued state sponsorship of terrorism against India. These have also been raised at high level bilateral discussion with world leaders. The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism and the impact this has on the security of the country and the region. This is now increasingly reflected in official statements by several Governments and in the international media coverage on Pakistan.

Signing of CTBT

1571. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM:
SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have sought clarifications from the US and other principal signatories to CTBT as to how far signing of CTBT is compatible with maintenance of Nuclear deterrent by the signatories, if so, with what response;

(b) what are the main reasons for refusal of the US Congress to ratify the CTBT;

(c) whether Government have since taken any steps to bring about consensus about signing of CTBT amongst different sections of Parliament; and

(d) if so, whether any of the parties have sought clarifications and if so the details thereof and the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) only prohibits underground explosive nuclear testing; other activities relating to development, non-explosive testing, production and safe maintenance of nuclear arsenals are not restricted. Thus the CTBT is entirely compatible with the maintenance of a nuclear deterrent by those States which have already conducted nuclear tests. The Government's view in this regard is shared by the US.

(b) The two main reservations expressed by the US senators voting against the CTBT related to lack of trust in maintaining the integrity of the US nuclear weapons stockpile without further explosive testing and doubts regarding the verifiability of the Treaty.

(c) and (d) India's stand on the CTBT was articulated by the Prime Minister in the UN General Assembly in September 1998 and in Parliament in December 1998. This was reiterated by the External Affairs Minister at the UN General Assembly in September 1999. The priority of our meeting the country's national security concerns having been addressed, the Government believes that we now need to convey reassurance to the international community and, in this regard, desires to develop a national consensus. The Government is encouraged by the constructive response to its efforts to build a consensus on the issue of CTBT and intends to pursue this exercise.